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though not successful in their principal aim, they contributed much to the geographical knowledge of the day. In reading these chapters one is struck with the thought that had there been more harmony and less jealousy among the commanders much better results would have been obtained. The author has possibly crowded too much matter into these chapters, especially in his treatment of Bering's second expedition. In our opinion the suppression of some of the details would not have materially affected the accuracy of the volume. The ships employed in these expeditions were frequently named in honor of Saints, which shows that the men, although as a rule rough and uncouth, were by no means devoid of religion. After being saved from grave dangers, invariably their first action was to return thanks to God.

The geographical relations of Asia and America were definitely established in 1823 by Wrangell. This theme is one of the subjects of the concluding chapter. In it are contained also an account of the survey of the Amur region, a task originally assigned to Bering, and the solution of the Sakhalin Island problem. The work concludes with a well merited tribute to Russian navigators. Several appendices translated from the Russian, French, and German, an index, and a bibliography complete the volume.

Mr. Golder has consulted mainly original sources found at Harvard University, the Library of Congress, the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, the *Archives de la Marine* and the archives at Petrograd, the material of which he has had to condense and present in English. The secondary sources, with which the author does not always agree, are, however, of the highest standing. In this book we see the efforts of a descriptive and narrative writer of ability, who, by his style and method of presentation sustains interest in matter that is often far from attractive. "Russian Colonization on the Pacific" is a valuable contribution to a field that, as yet, has received but scant notice.

Abraham Lincoln. The Lawyer-Statesman. By John T. Richards. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916. Pp. vii+260.

According to the publishers, this volume "is the result of years of searching among the records of the courts before which Lincoln practised, disproves many traditions, and illumines from a new angle the life and character of the real Abraham Lincoln."

It presents the main subject in three chapters, entitled, "in the courts," "the lawyer-president," and "criticism of the judiciary." These are preceded by a brief sketch of Lincoln's early education, and followed by a short appreciation of him as an orator, some gems of his thought, and an appendix containing his cases in the supreme courts of Illinois and the United States. The first claim in the quotation given above from the publisher's announcement, is well established by the contents of the book, but the second and third are somewhat exaggerated. One of the traditions which the author aims to disprove is the assumption that Lincoln did not have a proper respect for the courts, nor properly appreciate the value of an independent judiciary. It is doubtful whether any such tradition exists. All that has been claimed in this respect by the fair critics of the courts in recent years is that Lincoln used as strong language and employed the same arguments in differing from the Dred Scott decision as they have indulged in when they call into question some of the judicial decisions of recent years in the field of social and labor problems. As Mr. Richards points out, Lincoln severely criticised the judges who concurred in that decision, declaring that the decision itself was based upon ignorance of historical facts and prompted by the views of the judges regarding the merits of slavery, and affirming that the people were competent "to overthrow the *men* who pervert the constitution." The author tries to show that this line of criticism differs from that followed by the present day critics of the judiciary; but the fact is that the two lines are strikingly parallel; for the critics of the present day point out that decisions declaring unconstitutional labor laws, such as that involved in the New York bakeshop case (*Lochner vs. New York*) have proceeded from judicial ignorance of the actual conditions of industry, and from a certain bias acquired through early education and social affiliations. This was exactly the contention of Lincoln in essence. Even the extreme critics of today, those who desire the recall of judges, or the recall of judicial decisions have not desired to do more than "overthrow the men who pervert the constitution," and few of them have put their demands in such strong language.

The chief merit of the volume is that it presents Lincoln from a single and important point of view. It will, therefore, be found convenient by those who wish to consider him under that aspect.

The book is well printed, and contains several excellent illustrations.

Wraxall's Abridgment of the New York Indian Records, 1678-1751.

Edited with an Introduction by Charles H. McIlwain, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of History in Harvard University. Harvard
Historical Studies. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1916.
Pp. cxviii + 251.

In this volume of the Harvard Historical Studies, Prof. McIlwain has edited Peter Wraxall's "Abridgment of the Indian Records in the Colony of New York from 1678 to 1751." Wraxall was Indian Secretary for the Province of New York, and his abridgment was compiled to oppose the Albany plan for control of Indian affairs by a board of Colonial representatives. It contributed to the defeat of the Albany scheme and resulted in the appointment by the Lords of Trade in 1755 of Sir William Johnson sole superintendent of Indian affairs in the colonies. Wraxall became Johnson's secretary and rendered him valuable assistance in that office.

The early rivalry between England and France in America was not prompted by the desire for territory, the motive generally ascribed by both contemporary and modern historians, but was induced by the desire for Indian fur trade. It was the commercial treaties between the Five Nations and the Dutch and later between them and the English on the Hudson that prevented the realization of French colonization schemes; the success of which doubtless would have completely changed the political aspect of America. The French could not compete with the cheaply manufactured goods of the English traders and it was this, rather than the kindness of the English, which contributed to the French losses in America. The author says: "During the whole history of the English fur trade, the evidence indicates that most of these traders were the very scum of the earth, and their treatment of the Indians was such as hardly to be suitable for description." We recommend this quotation to English chroniclers of Spanish cruelty in America.

The importance of the study of these early Indian records is found in their significant effect upon the extension of French and English influence in the north and around the Great Lakes, a study which has not always received its merited attention. The